

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 10 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 11 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sue Bennett Memorial School Building

AND/OR COMMON

Sue Bennett College Administration Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

London

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Laurel

CODE

125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

475 Riverside Drive

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York 10027

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Laurel County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

London

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sue Bennett College Administration Building is a 2 1/2-story brick building with a small observation room. The exterior of the building is almost completely intact. Symmetrical in design, the building has four small porches centered on each of four sides with columns made of molded, semi-circular brick.

The base and cap of the columns consist of hand-hewn sandstone. Three of the four entranceways are topped by hand-hewn sandstone arches, one of them inscribed, "She hath done what she could." The entrances consist of double, glass-panelled doors topped by a semicircular transom. The porches themselves are hand-hewn limestone as is one long sidewalk leading from the building to the street. The wall above each porch is recessed and contains two round arch windows. Brick pilasters separate the remaining first and second floor windows which are grouped in threes and centered under a single sandstone lintel. The cornice work on the building is ornately designed tin. On each corner is a slender turret and several smaller ones adorn the shed-roofed dormers.

The basement of the building was originally six large rooms with massive, hand-hewn sandstone walls. Three of them have since been divided into restrooms and a storeroom. The first floor retains much of its original appearance although two of the four original classrooms have been made into offices. The second floor was at one time the college library and two classrooms. Offices and a classroom have been made from one of the larger rooms. The third (attic) floor was once used as a science lab and is largely unfinished and close to its original appearance. The top floor is only about 10' x 10' in size with windows on two sides and was built mainly as an observation point of the town and surrounding countryside. In 1949 the entire building was rewired, and the original grates were covered. The original inner walls are all several bricks thick. Having undergone major remodeling only once, the Administration Building has retained nearly all of its original solid doors, weighted windows, and eighteen-foot ceilings. All original woodwork is intact. The main halls on the lower two floors have beautiful oak floors. Approximately forty years ago, it was necessary to replace some flooring on first and second floors. The present flooring was made from white oak trees which had grown within forty or fifty feet of the present building. The walls in the hallways in the lower two floors have graceful curves instead of corners as does the lower molding. The graceful simplicity and functional design remain largely untouched.

The structure sits on a rise with a stone walk lined with trees on either side leading to the front entrance of the school building to the southwest.

The geographical boundaries are drawn to include the building site on three sides and the formal approach to the southwest which is important to the visual aspects of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896-1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Clark and Howard, Lexington/

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

H. L. Rowe, Lexington

During the period following the conclusion of the American Civil War, eastern Kentucky, as well as all of the Appalachian area, was considered an important region for home missions by several Protestant denominations in both the north and south of the United States. For a great many years, in fact, practically the only education provided in many of these poor mountainous counties was through the efforts of these many church-related schools founded through their home missionary activities. Not the least significant of these, considering the many important contributions that it has made to the area it serves, is Sue Bennett College.

Sue Bennett College owes its existence to Miss Sue Bennett of Richmond, Kentucky. In the 1890s schools were widely scattered in the southeastern part of Kentucky, and Miss Bennett was concerned about securing better educational facilities for this area. Although Miss Bennett did not live to see her goal completed, her sister, Miss Belle Harris Bennett, and the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, took the responsibility for putting her plans into effect.

When Miss Belle Bennett and her supporters raised \$20,000, the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society appointed a committee to select a location for the school. London, in Laurel County, was selected as the site, provided the citizens of the town appropriated an equal amount toward the building of the school. A committee of London citizens, including E. H. Hackney, E. R. Brock, and others, worked to raise the desired sum. The money was collected and on June 23, 1896, the cornerstone of the Administration Building was laid by Miss Belle Bennett.

Sue Bennett Memorial School, named for Miss Sue Bennett, opened on January 1, 1897. The policy of the school from the beginning was, not only to educate its students, but to train them so they could aid in educating the people in the remote rural areas of southeastern Kentucky. Sue Bennett at first was a high school, but as needs arose and opportunities occurred, the physical plant was enlarged and the program was broadened until, in 1922, Sue Bennett Memorial School became a junior college. In 1932, the College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Sue Bennett College was the property of the Board of Missions, Woman's Work, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. When the three branches of Methodism were united in 1929, the College came under the supervision of the Woman's Division of

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Sue Bennett Memorial School Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Christian Service of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. Today, Sue Bennett College is related to the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Sue Bennett College, unlike many of its sister missionary schools in eastern Kentucky, has managed to survive, is still strong in community service, and continues to remain an important institution providing higher education for the people in the area it serves. The Administration Building continues to be used in the important educational functions of the institution. With virtually no changes in its architectural style and design, it currently provides housing for the personnel of the academic affairs, admissions, business, and community services offices as well as classrooms for the division of social and behavioral sciences. As the oldest building on the campus, located practically in the center of college property, it has been an integral part of the development of this institution from a grade school into a junior college producing many important leaders since its opening in 1897.